

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

/060 W

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P R 072225Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 850

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6190

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT AND BUS WORKERS CALL OFF STRIKE --
STITUTION IMPROVES

REF: LIMA 6137

SUMMARY. THE TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION COMPOSED OF BUS AND TRUCKING UNIONS, CALLED OFF ITS WEEK-OLD STRIKE THE EVENING OF JULY 6. GOP ANNOUNCED THAT GOVERNMENT-RUN SUPERMARKETS WOULD BE FULLY SUPPLIED JULY 7 BUT POPULACE CONTINUES TO PANIC-BUY. BOTH APRA AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE REFRAINED FROM SHARP CRITICISM OF GOP ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MEASURES. GOP SOCIAL AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS BLAME THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON IMPERIALISM AND CHARGE THAT THE CIA IS ATTEMPTING TO DESTABILIZE THE GOVERNMENT. LIMA APPEARS TO BE RETURNING TO NORMAL BUT POLITICAL TENSION REMAINS HIGH. THERE IS SOME INDICATION OF A LACK OF TRUST BETWEEN ARMY AND POLICE. END SUMMARY.

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1. TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (NATIONWIDE GROUPING OF BUS AND TRUCK DRIVERS UNIONS) CALLED OFF ITS WEEK-OLD STRIKE EVENING OF JULY 6. UNION COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED IN ABSENCE OF, BUT SIGNED BY, SECGEN JUAN LUNA (WHO SAID TO BE IN DELICATE HEALTH). COMMUNIQUE SUSPENDED THE STRIKE, CALLED FOR RELEASE OF UNION LEADERS AND WORKERS DETAINED BY POLICE, NAMED A COMMISSION TO RE-OPEN "DIALOGUE" WITH THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION, AND REQUESTED THAT THE GOP ANNUL ITS DECREE CANCELLING LICENSES OF DRIVERS ON STRIKE AS OF JULY 5. UNION COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED NO TERMS OF SETTLEMENT WITH GOP BUT PRESS REPORTING ON NORMALIZATION OF LIMA FOOD SUPPLY INDICATES THAT OVER-THE-ROAD TRANSPORT TARIFFS ARE UP. AS FOR MICRO-BUS DRIVERS, SOME OTHER CONCESSION MAY BE OR HAS BEEN OFFERED BY GOP. UNION LEADERS DEMANDED AN AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AS CONDITION FOR SUSPENDING THE STRIKE. IF AUDIENCE HAS BEEN AGREED UPON, MORALES BERMUDEZ MAY BE READY TO GIVE SOMETHING IN COMPENSATION FOR GASOLINE PRICE HIKE.

2. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THAT GOVERNMENT-RUN SUPERMARKETS WOULD BE FULLY SUPPLIED JULY 7 AND SAID THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD DESIST FROM ITS PANIC BUYING SPREE. THE POPULACE IS EXHORTED TO IGNORE RUMORS. HOWEVER, PEOPLE CONTINUE TO QUEUE UP IN LONG LINES IN THE MARKETS.

3. GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS JULY 7 REVEALED THE DESTRUCTION OF A GOP SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AGENCY (SINAMOS) HEADQUARTERS IN THE LIMA DISTRICT OF COMAS. THE PRESS NOTED THAT 150 ORGANIZED YOUTHS WERE "MANIPULATED BY LEADERS OF THE DIRECTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PUEBLO JOVEN (SLUM TOWN) COLLIQUE AND CARRIED OUT THE DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITY". SINAMOS APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO BE A SPECIAL TARGET OF RESENTMENT.

4. ACCORDING TO A WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNT, POLICE FOLLOWED UP CLOSURE OF WEEKLY POLITICAL JOURNALS WITH ARREST ORDERS FOR SOME OF THE DIRECTORS OF THESE PERIODICALS. THE WIFE OF ALFONSO BAELEA TUESTA OF EL TIEMPO TOLD UPI THAT HER HUSBAND IS NOW IN HIDING (HE WAS PRESENT AT EMBASSY FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION). THE FAR-LEFT DIRECTORS OF MAMNA AND EL PERIODISTA ARE ALSO SAID TO BE ON POLICE DETENTION ORDER.

5. MEANWHILE, BOTH THE APRA AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENTING A "SOFT LINE" IN RESPONSE TO GOP ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MEASURES OF THE PAST WEEK. APRA HAS CANCELLED A JULY 7 COMMEMORATION OF ITS 1932 UPRISING AS A GESTURE IN ANSWER TO "THE WORDS OF RECONCILIATION EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ". THE PCP IN A LENGTHY COMMUNIQUE BASICALLY SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT AND CONTENTS THAT WORKERS "ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT NECESSARY SACRIFICE...BECAUSE THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF THE REVOLUTION IS TO LIQUIDATE IMPERIALIST AND OLIGARCHIC

DOMINATION". THE PCP STATEMENT CLAIMS THAT "DETRACTORS OF THE REVOLUTION PORTRAY GOP ECONOMIC MEASURES AS INSPIRED BY IMPERIALIST INTERESTS. YET IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT THEY BENEFIT STATE ENTERPRISES AND AGRARIAN REFORM COOPERATIVES WHICH CONTROL A LARGE PART OF EXPORTABLE PRODUCTION." THE ONLY VEILED CRITICISM OF GOP MEASURES IS THEPCP CONTENTION THAT WORKERS' BUYING POWER MUST BE INCREASED AND THE STATEMENT THAT "WORKERS CALL FOR HIGHER SALARIES AND THE ABROGATION OF THE GOP DECISION TO EXTEND (FOR SIX MONTHS) LABOR CONTRACTS".

6. IN YET ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE, ALL THE GOP SOCIAL AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, LED BY THE FRONT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION (FDRP), BLAME THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON IMPERIALISM AND CHARGE THAT CIA "DESTABILIZING FORMULAS ARE BEING APPLIED" IN OUR COUNTRY IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE GOVERNMENT. ALL FOOD, TRANSPORT AND OTHER PROBLEMS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO A STRATEGY OF THE "CIA AND NATIVE PRO-FASCIST RIGHT".

7. WITH THE END OF THE BUS AND TRANSPORT STRIKE, LIMA SEEMS TO BE RETURNING TO NORMAL. POLITICAL TENSION SHOULD CORRESPONDINGLY DECREASE ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT IS MAINTAINING TIGHT SECURITY PROCEDURES. MILITARY UNITS ARE STILL IN EVIDENCE, SCHOOLS REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL JULY 12 AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CURFEW, SUSPENSION OF PERSONAL GUARANTEES OR THE STATE OF EMERGENCY ARE ABOUT TO BE LIFTED. SECURITY MEASURES MAY EXTEND TO CONTROL OF POLICE. EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT, BECAUSE ARMY DOES NOT FULLY TRUST POLICE, THE GOP HAS ORDERED THAT POLICE TURN IN THEIR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. EMBASSY HAS NOTED THAT ONLY SPECIAL POLICE UNITS SEEM TO BE FULLY ARMED. IT IS DISTURBING TO US THAT THE GOP IS PERMITTING ITS SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS TO RESURRECT THE THEME THAT IMPERIALISM AND THE CIA ARE TO BLAME FOR PERU'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TROUBLES.

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